City Council Special Called Meeting 8/17/2012

>> Mayor Leffingwell: A quorum is present, so I'll call this special called meeting of the austin city council to order on friday, august 17th, 2012.

The time is 2:10 p.m.

We're meeting in the council chambers, austin city hall,
301 west second street,
austin, texas.
Before we begin I'd like to
take a minute here to
recognize somebody told me
there were 50 school
children here from dove
springs.

Could you stand up so that everyone will recognize you?

[Applause]

and I see you have a lot of signs there.

So as we go through the meeting, remember look around and see if there's someone behind you that you might be blocking that couldn't see.

So you could keep your signs out of their way.

Okay.

So we basically -- we have a couple of items on the agenda if necessary.

So the first is to approve an ordinance amending the order calling for the november 6, 2012 election to provide for a general obligation bond propositions and declaring an emergency.

We do have some folks signed up to speak. Only five so far. Without objection, council, I would like to limit -this is the third hearing we've had -- actually, the fourth -- to limit public testimony to 30 minutes. That would be 10 speakers. Right now we have five. So the first speaker that we have signed up is ophelia zapata. Is ophelia here? Okay. So ma'am, you have three minutes.

>> Good afternoon.

Again, I want to thank all our dove springs youth for being out here with their parents.

My name is ophelia zapata.

I am vice-chair of the southeast neighborhood contact team.

And I'm here on behalf of our community to shed some light on some background of the dove springs recreation center.

When it -- first I want to thank you for the staff's work and the current proposed dollars allocated.

However, since 2004 it was the last time that the public health department put in a proposal for a multipurpose center.

We are the only neighborhood east of i-35 that never received a multi purpose center.

And although there is
dollars allocated in there,
we're talking about for our
neighborhood because of all
the research that has been
done in the last two, three
years about our community
and the obesity issue and
all the health issues,
safety issues, that our
multipurpose center we want
a comprehensive multipurpose
center that has a senior
center.

Our seniors are homebound.

We want the total holistic

approach to creating a safe and healthy community.

When we originally built the dove springs rec center there was a police substation in the actual architect because that was the goal was to continue creating a safe neighborhood.

It was moved out 10 years ago.

There is a lot of things that we are challenged with in our neighborhood, but we are here to do our part with you.

But what we're asking today is to really look at the

that would not create -that is not enough money for
the multipurpose center that
we need in our community
that we have been waiting
for.

It's been in our 2002 plan for 4.5 million. So we ask you to seriously do what you can to increase those dollars to create the facility that we need to make dove springs 78744, a healthy community and one that our children can -won't be limited to the recreational activities that will help them become healthier children. Again, thank you and again, thank all the students and the families for being here.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Thank you. Mona gonzalez. >> Good afternoon, mayor and city councilmembers. We are, as you can see, a young community. What does that mean for austin, texas? It means the future bilingual tech workforce, it means the future leaders of this community, chris. Mike, it means the future of austin, our beloved community.

So today there are here to

voice their opinion.

As so eloquently stated by ophelia zapata, we need more than the 1.7 million.

We know how tough it's been.

We were there at every single bond election taskforce meeting, even the children were there.

But it has come to its time.

We must make decisions.

Recently I saw a map, laura, of dove springs.

And we've seen many maps because there's a lot of research going on as owe peel I can't mentioned.

This map was a little different, do you know why? Children.

Do you know what it had on the map?

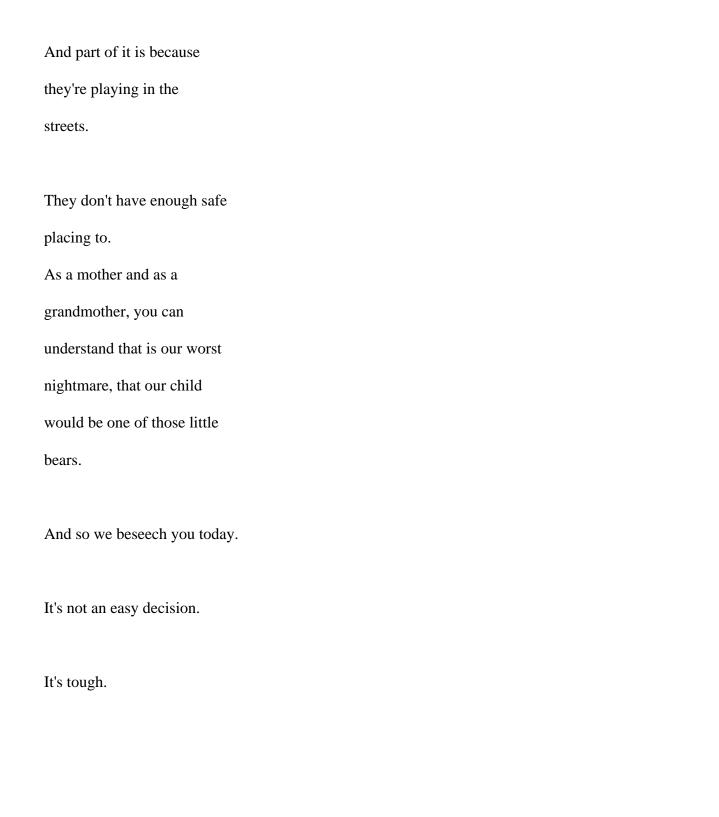
[Speaking spanish].

Little bears.

And on that map with little bears all over dove springs you would think that maybe they were celebrating their birthday or maybe it signified something very beautiful, but do you know what it signified?

It signified the traffic fatalities that have occurred in our neighborhood.

Every little bear meant that a child had been somehow hurt either through a bike



or pedestrian situation.

is that happening?

And I thought to myself, why

But for the sake of the future of austin, the future of our families and the future of these children, please enlarge, expand, have the boldness, make a few changes here and there, but make it happen.

We are so grateful to you.

We know each one of you has a good heart.

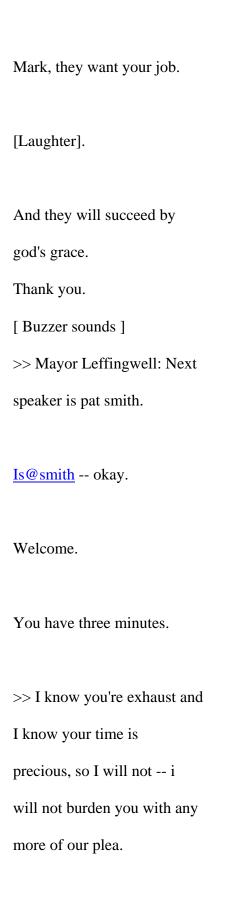
You have a pen in your hand.

Exercise it for the good.

And if you do, we will seek together the beauty of dove springs in just a few years.

Look at them.

They're headed for college.



I think that the children
here certainly speak for the
passion and the need in
community, and the previous
speakers did a beautiful
job.

We appreciate all your time, work and effort.

We know the decisions are difficult, but dove springs seems to be and has been overlooked for a very long time.

And this is precious time in the childhood and youth of these children that affects their future.

So we would appreciate each of you considering very closely more dollars for the

dove springs recreation center.

Thank you so much.

>> Frank (indiscernible).

mayor and members of
the council, my name is
frank cardenas, I'm speaking

I'm a new coming to austin.

about mexi-carte museum.

I moved from longview about four years ago when i retired, and I'm sure that i have the same experience that many of you had about mexi-carte.

Many times I went to there and there was no way that i could have thought that there was a museum behind the walls.

When I found out what the

museum was doing, the quality of their exhibits, the quality of their education, the quality of their board members, but most impressively, most importantly, I was impressed that out of the four or five museums in the nation, mexi-carte is the only museum that has an official contract with the government of mexico to bring masters to exhibit here in our museum.

Now, consequently the museum is the official museum of the state of texas for mexican art.

The only problem is that we don't have a facility to bring these masters.

We don't have a place to exhibit, you know, those -- you know, those good -- the good art that we can bring.

And we need your help.

And I'm sure that there's
many of you that are going
to help us because improving
mexi-carte is not only going
to be good for mexi-carte,
it's going to be a great
improvement for the entire
city of austin.
And maybe the state of

You know, people go to fort worth to the kimball to see special exhibits.

texas.

People go to houston to see

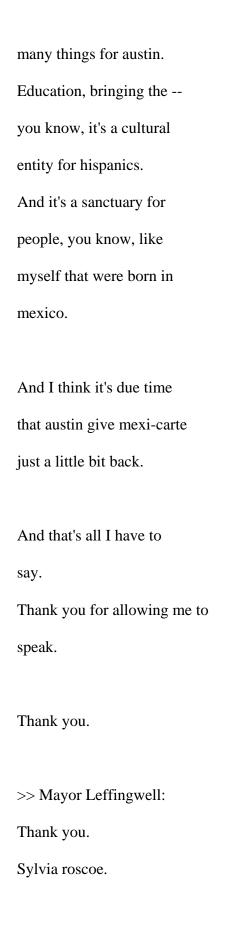
special exhibits.

There's no reason why people can't come to austin, especially being the capital and austin being such a vacation area to visit, you know, with the capitol.

So I ask you to consider -I know you want to help
mexi-carte.

I know that in your heart
you want to help mexi-carte.
I just help you to dig in
your minds and see what you
can do and try to help and
get some fund there's for
mexi-carte.

In closing I want to add one more thing, mexi-carte for more than 25 years has made so many things, has done so



>> I'm going to give a few
of my time to kathleen who
wrote this incredible letter
and I wanted her to read
that.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Okay.

mayor,

councilmembers, good afternoon.

I am kathleen needorf, as she said and I am just on the advisory committee for mexi-carte museum.

I am here in support of five million dollars in bond money for a new mexi-carte museum.

My ethnicity is purely northern european.

I was really disappointed a few years ago to find out that the great, great cherokee grandmother was not mine, it was my cousin's.

So I have nothing but german and welsh blood.

But I'm a sixth generation texan and hispanic heritage is mine too.

As it is for all of us.

I'm convinced and my husband frank joins me, that the city of austin will be missing a major opportunity for cultural recognition and economic growth if this new museum is passed over.

As the previous speaker

mentioned, people go to fort
worth not only to see what's
in the kimball, but to see
the kimball.

People go to san antonio to see the monee.

As is witnessed by the buses in their park lots on a daily basis.

Mexi-carte as envisioned by
the architect fernando
romero, who designed a
museum in mexico city, would
be a spectacular addition to
downtown austin, to downtown
revitalization, as well as
an addition to the soul of
this city.

Finally, it is indisputable,
just peruse the research of
the deeming on ralph he at
rice and the former head of

the united states census bureau that the population of texas will have a majority of hispanic citizens in a decade or two. They would be fools not to recognize the potential for encouraging educational and cultural programs and facilities for our state that take advantage of this fact. Mexi-carte museum could be just such a facility for just such programs. Thank you very much. >> Mayor Leffingwell: Thank you.

You have about 45 seconds.

>> Thank you.

Mayor and community members,
I've been doing this for 30
years, and before that, i
just want to say I was like
many of the children here
and I grew up in crow,
texas.

And I didn't have the opportunity to go into a museum until I was 20 years old.

And then I went to mexico and lived in the city with more than 100 museums.

And I lived in those museums for five years and I said i want to come back to austin and I want that for my community.

And we've done everything we can, made something out of nothing for all these years,

and I just ask you -- we're connected to you, we have a 50-year contract with you.

We went through the process,
we got a recommendation.
Community has spoken.
I just ask you to help make

We can bring greatness to this city.

that push a little bit more.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

Larry graham?

>> Good afternoon,
mayor, members of the
council.

My name is larry graham and

I have served on the board

of mexi-carte for a little

over a year.

And just briefly, I wanted

to say that I support, if

possible, adding funds in

the bond for mexi-carte for

the new building.

It's quite a project and i

think it would really

allow -- it would be

something great for

downtown, but it really

would allow the museum to

display a lot of the art

that its unable to display

now.

I think it would be

something spectacular for

austin.

I know you have some very

difficult decisions to make

and we're down here kind of

down to the wire, but I just ask that you consider putting some money in for mexi-carte to help with the construction of the new building.

So that's all I have to say.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

Elizabeth baskin.

>> Hello.

I'm here as an austinite.

I'm here to represent all of the children who have opportunities to do all sorts of wonderful things through our museum for children in underserved areas.

And I am a concerned person about our downtown, about tourism.

I think the possibilities
would be so exceptional if
we are able to have a
wonderful building there on
the corner of fifth and
congress.

Right now we have all sorts of amazing architectural things going on downtown, and our little building needs some work.

And not only from the

The things that it will bring to austin and the opportunities for tourism,

inside, but the outside.

for people coming and saying in hotels and spending lots of time in austin, and to grow the culture here, will be absolutely wonderful.

So please consider giving us the additional monies that we need to start out our campaign.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

Those are all the speakers that I have signed up to speak.

So council, we are at first and second readings on propositions 12 through 17 have been approved, it's been approved on first and second reading.

Today we'll consider third reading. >> Cole: Mayor? >> Mayor Leffingwell: Mayor pro tem? >> Cole: I will move for approval on third reading of all the items -- all of the propositions. >> Mayor Leffingwell: Mayor pro tem cole moves approval on third reading. Is there a second for that motion? Seconded by councilmember martinez. Further discussion? Councilmember morrison. >> Morrison: This has

certainly been an ardous

process and last night was a classic struggle that i think we all tried valiantly to find some agreement on, whether we were going to be supporting fire stations or mexi-carte or bathhouses or design or bridges or whatever.

And didn't move the needle at all, but I think for myself there are some very positive elements in this package and it's certainly time to put personal disappointments aside and move forward.

I can tell you that last
night I certainly considered
voting for this so that we
could just avoid this
meeting, but I just was

optimistic that after a good
night's sleep somebody was
going to be able to pull a
rabbit out of a hat and come
up with some miraculous way
that we could all agree on
shifting some funds that
would make everybody happy.

But that didn't happen.

But what it did get me
thinking about is one of the
things I think that struck
me is, you know, 20 years
ago there was criticism that
all our resources were going
outside the city -- to the
edge of the city.
And that we were ignoring
downtown.

And I think that -- I just

want to say that I think we need to be wear that we don't move the needle too far to the other side and that we do need to find a balance.

We need to include the whole city.

It's wonderful what's
happened with downtown, but
I don't want the other -the other parts of the city
to be -- to lack the
resources that they need to
be able to remain vibrant.
And we need to do -- you
know, we need to do our jobs
in a very even handed way.
In any case, there are some
things, of course, that i

disagree with, but on the

whole I think that this is a

solid package to take to the voters.

And before I close, I want to thank -- I know we've thanked the taskforce before and I want to thank the staff that have been like deer in the headlights when we start saying let's move this and this and this and this and this and all the personnel that are behind you and all.

It's been a delight to work for you.

So I would say that for the good of the city I want to be part of this statement that this council is going to make in putting this proposition on the ballot

that this is a solid --

these propositions, that

this is a solid package and

it's deserving of their

serious consideration.

So I will be supporting the

motion.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Any

other comments?

Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: Thanks.

And thank you to all of the

community members who have

come downtime after time and

been part of the taskforce

process.

I know you have all invested

lots of time and energy and

resources in this ongoing

dialogue.

And I want to extend my

thanks too to the staff
because the information
you've provided us with has
been very useful to making
these hard decisions.
I too hope that after a good
night's sleep we might see
some new solutions emerging
this morning.

But ter looking over the spreadsheet for the 50th time, I don't think there are any options that we haven't tried in terms of shifting money around.

And I think in -- as a whole I think this is a very strong bond proposal.

I think we will -- priority projects that have been discussed and contemplated in this proposal will reach

all across austin, east, west, north and south.

And I think that's a real success to have a bond proposal that is so balanced.

And I want to say that I am so thrilled to see a bond proposal going before the voters that has such a strong commitment to affordable housing because it is such a critical need in this community.

So I really thank my
colleagues for their support
of such a high level of
funding.
I know it was a challenge to

get to that number.

I know there are many in
this community who would
like to see that number
higher, but I think it is a
strong to significant
commitment and it says a lot
about the vision of austin
that we want to see in the
future.

And I think that's
especially important after
hearing the stories and the
hearings that led up to this
final vote of the elderly
woman living without running
water in her house and a
home repair grant was able
to turn that situation
around.
The child living in a van

and going to the library to plug in his nebulizer, that

is not any of our vision of austin.

And I know that this money that we have in the package for affordable housing will do

lives, and I'm very supportive of the package overall.

Soil be supporting today's vote.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Any other comments?

Councilmember martinez.

>> Martinez: Just briefly,

I want to look at all of you
and thank you very much.

I know it hasn't been easy.

I know we've disagreed on

little individual items from here and there, trying to make some last minute tweaks, but I know we all share the same value, and that is we care so much about this city.

And the reason we struggled this week is not because we can't get along and because we can't agree, it's because we can't stop caring about our citizens and trying to do more, trying to do as much as we possibly can. So I thank you all. And I look forward to working with you all, getting this measure passed and then getting to work on the next project, whichever it is.

So I really want to share my thanks to the entire

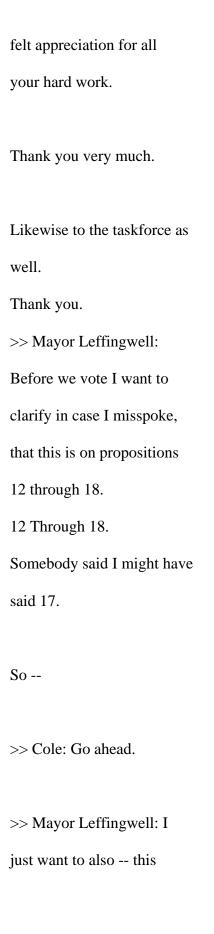
council, to the city manager and to all of your staff.

I really appreciate all your work.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Citymanager?>> Ott: Thank you,councilmember martinez.

I want to take that thanks
and appreciation and pass it
on to a very capable staff
sitting here, mike and staff
and everybody who worked
hard for a long time to
bring a recommendation to
you and worked hard as you
worked your way through it
to get to where you are
today.

My hats off to your heart



has been a lot of hard work

for everyone.

It's been a very difficult

process.

If money were unlimited it

would have been a lot

easier, but money is limited

and we had to really work

hard at prioritizing these

propositions.

We've heard today about two

needs that are very great in

my opinion, meritorious.

Over the past four times

that we've addressed this

item in public we've heard

about a lot more.

There are a lot of --

there's a lot of need and a

lot of items that need to be

funded still out there.

This year and this bond package we can't do it.

That's unfortunate.

That doesn't mean it's the end of it.

We'll continue to look for
ways to help people all over
this city, not with this
bond package, but with other
efforts, and we'll continue
to try to think of
innovative ways to do things
to help those who have unmet
needs.

Thanks to all the councilmembers.

I know it's been a difficult process for you as well.

And somebody said earlier that if it were -- I believe

it was you, councilmember morrison.

You might have had some slightly different priorities and I think we're all in that same boat, but this is something where it has to be a collaborative effort and we volleyball to agree on a final package -- we all have to agree on a final package at some point in time.

And that's what is facing us with this next vote as the final vote on a package that all of us can support, at least I hope that's the case.

Mayor pro tem?

>> Cole: Thank you.

First I want to acknowledge
the mayor for coming up with
a process whereby we could
vote on individual items and
did not have to vote the
whole thing up or down.

That was the procedural move that I think made us leap very, very far.

I want to thank
councilmember martinez for
making his proposal first
public and laying out a
groundwork for us in our
first meeting on the issue.
I think that set the stage.
And I want to thank
councilmember morrison and
councilmember tovo for doing
the same and for emphasizing
continually the importance

of the citizens bond
advisory committee and the
work that they were doing
and our need to acknowledge
that.

I want to thank
councilmember riley for
hanging in there and working
so hard to make sure that we
got this done.

Our city manager often times doesn't say much, but he works hard and stood behind his staff, mike trimble and the countless others.

Not just with us, but with the bond advisory committee and many, many citizens.

Finally and foremost, what

is happening in other cities where the confidence in government is declining, it is obvious that here we are doing much better because we have citizens that answer our calls time and time again and give us their talents, their energy and their time to support our process of governing. And I want to thank all the people on the taskforce and all the people who brought items before the taskforce.

My goal was to make sure that we had a package without a tax increase.

And together we have done that.

We are addressing our most

pressing needs and they will

be met.

And at this point I simply ask the citizens to give us their full support because this is a package that deserves approval at the ballot box.

Thank you, mayor.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Okay.

All those in favor of the motion say aye.

>> Just real quick on advice
of legal we would like to
just go through the final
numbers for the propositions
and then I think legal has
another piece of information
to give you.

>> Cole: That is not a

nice way to end, michael.

[Laughter].

>> I'm sorry.

I'm sorry.

Always about process.

[Laughter].

>> So the totals that we

have by propositions,

proposition 12,

transportation and mobility,

is 143,299,000.

Proposition 13, open space

and watershed protection, is

\$30 million.

Proposition 14, parks and

recreation, is 77,680,000.

Proposition 15, housing, is

78,300,000.

Proposition 16, public

safety, is 31,079,000.

Proposition 17, health and human services, is 11,148,000.

And proposition 18, library and museum and cultural arts facilities, is 13,442,000.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Any questions about those numbers?

>> Cole: Move approval, mayor.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: We already -- go ahead.

>> Thank you.

Lela fireside for the law department.

I just wanted to make sure

that y'all realize that the reason that you have yellow copies is because we made sure that the ordinance addressing the calling of the election as amended by you all to set up all the charter provisions is reflected in part 1 of this ordinance.

And that's also why the numbers [inaudible] charter amendments.

I just wanted to make sure you were aware.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: We understand that.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Further discussion?

All in favor say aye?

Opposed say no?

It passes on a vote of six to zero with councilmember spelman off the dais.

[Applause]

so item number 2 I don't believe we have any matters to discuss or any action to take on that since we passed item number 1.

And so items number 2 and 3 are withdrawn.

Without objection, we stand adjourned at 2:42 p.m.